

Message Text

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17

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1831

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 0003

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, JA

SUBJECT: ROK-JAPAN MINISTERIAL MEETING

1. MOFA ASIA BUREAU DIRECTOR CHI SONG-KU GAVE POL COUNSELOR FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF POLITICAL ASPECTS ROK-JAPAN MINISTERIAL MEETING.

2. CHI SAID MEETING ACCOMPLISHED T O MAJOR OBJECTIVES. FIRST OF ALL, FACT THAT MINISTERIAL MEETING WAS HELD DEMONSTRATED TO THE PUBLICS IN BOTH COUNTRIES THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN ROKG AND GOJ HAVE NOW BEEN COMPLETELY NORMALIZED AND KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE SETTLED AT GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL. SECONDLY, CHI SAID AT MEETING BOTH SIDES REAFFIRMED "THE EXISTING RELATIONSHIP" BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, BOTH POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY.

3. DURING MEETING, CHI INDICATED ROK SIDE ATTEMPTED TO SECURE JAPANESE COMMITMENT TO AVOID EXPANDING ITS "RELATIONSHIPS" WITH NORTH KOREA. GOJ SIDE INDICATED THAT IT WOULD CONTINUE "PRESENT POLICIES" UNTIL PRC AND USSR MAKE SOME GESTURES TOWARD ROKG.

4. CHI SAID THAT ROK SIDE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY PRESIDENT PARK
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NOT TO ENGAGE IN ARGUMENT OVER LEVEL OF JAPANESE ECONOMIC COOP-

ERATION. PRESIDENT WAS EXPLICIT IN STATING THAT KOREAN DELEGATION SHOULD NOT ADOPT "A BEGGING ATTITUDE." THEREFORE, WHILE NOT OVERLY PLEASED, CHI SAID ROKG REPS DID NOT PROTEST ASSISTANCE LEVELS PROPOSED BY GOJ.

5. DESPITE PRESS REPORTS, CHI SAID KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE DID NOT FIGURE SIGNIFICANTLY IN SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS, TO BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE. KOREAN SIDE HAS ADOPTED POSITION THAT CASE IS NOW CLOSED AS FAR AS GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS ARE CONCERNED AND JAPANESE HAVE ACCEPTED THIS. CHI DOES NOT KNOW IF KIM CASE WAS DISCUSSED IN SOME INFORMAL FASHION BUT IT WAS NOT RAISED FORMALLY IN EITHER MINISTERIAL MEETING OR IN FONMIN KIM'S MEETING WITH OHIRA.

6. DURING THE KIM-OHIRA PRIVATE MEETING, CHI SAID FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WERE DISCUSSED:

A) VISIT OF JAPAN SOCIALIST PARTY (JSP) DELEGATION: OHIRA RAISED QUESTION OF VISIT TO ROK OF SIX-MAN JSP PARLIAMENTARY GROUP. PURPOSE OF VISIT WOULD BE TO INVESTIGATE JAPANESE BUSINESS ACTIVITIES IN THE ROK. AT OHIRA'S REQUEST, FONMIN KIM "AGREED IN PRINCIPLE" TO ALLOW VISIT BY JSP GROUP. HOWEVER, SAID ROKG WOULD RESERVE RIGHT TO "SCREEN" COMPOSITION OF JSP COMMITTEE AND OUTSPOKEN ANTI-ROK CRITICS WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED. OHIRA ASKED THAT FONMIN KIM RECONSIDER THAT POINT;

B) SIGNATURE OF SHELF AND OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION AGREEMENTS: IT WAS AGREED THAT AGREEMENTS WOULD BE SIGNED IN MID-JANUARY BY FONMIN KIM AND AMBASSADOR USHIROKU;

C) RESUMPTION OF JOINT SUB-COMMITTEES. IT WAS AGREED THAT THERE IS "NOW NO REASON" NOT TO RESUME WORK OF ROKG-GOJ SUB-COMMITTEES DEALING WITH THE SUBMARINE CABLE PROBLEM. WELFARE OF KOREAN RESIDENTS IN JAPAN, AND THE REMOVAL OF REMAINS OF KOREANS INTERRED IN JAPAN. SUB-COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS IN THESE AREAS HAD BEEN SUSPENDED IN THE WAKE OF KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE.

7. CHI NOTED HEAVY PUBLICITY GIVEN TO OHIRA'S ALLEGED OFFER TO ACT AS INTERMEDIARY IN ROK CONTACTS WITH MAJOR COMMUNIST POSERS. CHI SAID STORIES WERE GREATLY EXAGGERATED. IN HIS FORMAL PRESENTATION AT MINISTERIAL MEETING, FONMIN KIM ELABORATED ON JUNE 23 POLICY STATEMENT INDICATING ROKG DESIRE FOR CONTACTS WITH COMM-

UNIST COUNTRIES. AFTER MEETING, OHIRA INFORMALLY BROUGHT THIS CONFIDENTIAL

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UP, ASKING CURRENT STATUS OF ROKG ATTEMPTS TO ESTABLISH CONTACTS WITH USSR AND PRC. FONMIN KIM GAVE HIM DESCRIPTION LIMITED SUCCESS ROKG HAS HAD WITH USSR (E.G. UNIVERSITIAD GAMES, OCCASIONAL VISAS). ALSO INDICATED THERE HAD BEEN NO PROGRESS WITH PRC. TOCHI'S KNOWLEDGE, THIS CASUAL EXCHANGE WAS EXTENT OF DISCUSSION ON QUESTION OF TIES WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

8. CHI ALSO NOTED THAT AT MINISTERIAL MEETING USEFULNESS OF

FUTURE MEETINGS WAS CONFIRMED AND MEETING IN SEOUL SOMETIME IN

1974 WAS AGREED UPON.

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